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MAY, JUNE AND JULY 2003

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LA County Botanic Garden
LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM & BOTANIC GARDEN

News from the LA County Botanic Garden

It will grow on you!

L.A. County Botanic Garden...

Our New Name Better Describes What we Have Become and What Our Future Holds

The dream of an arboretum for Southern California came to Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Ayres, Jr. on their first trip to Hawaii in 1939, upon seeing the wealth of the island's flowering trees and shrubs. Six years later, Dr. Ayres, a dermatologist and a confirmed horticulturist, chaired a committee of the Southern California Horticultural Institute and began the work of bringing an arboretum to our area.

In 1947, while enjoying a picnic with friends by the tropical lagoon on Lucky Baldwin's old Santa Anita Ranch, Dr. Ayres immediately knew he had discovered the perfect site. Thus began the incredible journey in developing a horticultural and floricultural center for Southern California.

We've been evolving and growing for 55 years. Today, our facility is everything that the founding fathers had planned, but it is also much more. Over the years, as a Los Angeles institution, it has become more intimately involved with the diverse communities it serves. It has become a vital resource, unique among botanic gardens, for knowledge about the connection between people and plants (ethnobotany). Each year it offers hundreds of thousands of visitors a wide variety of enjoyable and informative experiences in a place of indescribable beauty.

Along with numerous renowned collections of plants from around the world, it also hosts many spectacular gardens—displays of roses, irises, palms, herbs and perennials.

Classes, lectures, exhibitions and special events relating to botany, horticulture and similar topics for adults, families and children, are ongoing 364 days each year. Classes are taught not only in English, but also in Spanish, Chinese and Korean.

For visitors who enjoy a fast-paced invigorating walk or a leisurely stroll, the grounds delight all senses and curiosities...

...prehistoric plants, rainforest specimens, and the mighty oaks and redwoods;

...native Tongva/Gabrielino dwellings, the historic landmarks of the Hugo Reid Adobe and magnificent Queen Anne Cottage;

...informative gardens including a newly renovated Herb Garden, the Kallam Perennial Garden, the Water Conservation Garden, eight Sunset Magazine Demonstration Gardens, the Tropical Greenhouse and our renowned collection of over 3200 orchid plants;

...not to mention the many famous movie and television sites including Jurassic Park, Tarzan and Fantasy Island.

The future of the L.A. County Botanic Garden is exciting. States Peter Atkins, CEO, "I look to our bright future and see nothing but success. I see children learning to cherish plants, our life sustaining partners; and I see the diverse make-up of Los Angeles looking to and embracing our institution as its own botanic garden; I see our world not just existing, but thriving at a higher level of well-being, in part because of our sound goals, priorities, and efforts."

We hope you will share our enthusiasm for our new name and what it means. Come visit the L.A. County Botanic Garden..."It will grow on you!"

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PUBLISHED BY THE LOS ANGELES ARBORETUM FOUNDATION

NEWS FROM PETER C. ATKINS, CEO

Winter at The L.A. County Botanic Garden

This past winter season has been a hectic one, with much attention focused upon details of the conceptual long-range plan, applying for various grants, and continuing our corporate collaborations. Some highlights:

Rain Bird Corporation, the world's largest manufacturer of irrigation equipment, delivered nearly $37,000 worth of high-tech equipment to our Botanic Garden. We are very appreciative of such a generous gift and look forward to beginning to replace our old, tired, inefficient and decaying irrigation system with modern Rain Bird equipment. Although it will take several years before this project is complete, we are certainly off to a great start. In addition, we will be entering into discussions with Rain Bird about overhauling our Water Conservation Educational Kiosk with more up-to-date educational displays emphasizing modern water conservation concepts and best practices.

Monrovia Growers is working with Nancy Goslee Power & Associates and our staff. They are busy creating the conceptual details of a plant introduction exhibit. We hope that this includes plants not yet available to the general public and historic plant introductions. Additionally we look to include lighting which will afford us the enjoyment of this special garden in the evenings. An educational information kiosk is planned to incorporate cultural practices, suggestions for use of unusual plants appropriate for our climate and internet links to botanical/horticultural web sites.

Planning continues at a feverish pace for the 33rd Baldwin Bonanza. Please mark your calendar for the first weekend in May (May 2, 3 and 4) for this important annual fundraiser. The Friday evening kick-off event for ticket holders only will be better than ever! Attendees will be able to bid on exciting auction items, including works of art by the renowned artist Victor Hugo Zayas; have first choice of purchase from a vast array of beautiful and unusual plants; enjoy wonderful music and delectable food provided by many local restaurateurs and caterers; all this and more within the picturesque Botanic Garden.

Finally, we invite you, your families, and friends to the first annual Korean Garden Festival, which is scheduled for May 17, 2003 at the Botanic Garden. Please join us for what promises to be a most exciting and educational event.

My staff and I cannot thank you enough for your support of the Botanic Garden. We greatly appreciate all the volunteers, board members, local and county officials, and the many visitors contributing to this magnificent facility and important community resource.

We hope to see you at the Baldwin Bonanza plant sale, May 2-3-4.

FOUNDATION PRESIDENT, GEORGE BRUMDER

Dear Friends,

Our new names: We believe that our new names— the formal Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden and the shorter name L.A. County Botanic Garden— will make clear that we are a garden or a botanic garden, will help us attract, and serve, a wider audience from across Southern California and beyond. Though we may, and many of us no doubt will, continue to call us The Arboretum, we do hope you will support, and speak positively about, our new names.

The Spring 2003 Series of Thursday Morning Seminars: Having had a hand in planning these and participating in them, I hope you'll make a point of reading about these seminars in the enclosed calendar. We've had remarkable seminar leaders and the seminar participants are knowledgeable and enthusiastic. It's been fun and worthwhile. We would love to have you join us, and encourage others to join us, too.

Christopher Lloyd Lecture: In May we will have a visit from Christopher Lloyd and Fergus Garrett.

Christopher has devoted his lifetime to the wonderful English garden Great Dixter, his family home, making it one of the most experimental, exciting and constantly changing gardens of our time. Fergus is the head gardener at Great Dixter. Don't miss their lecture on May 22 from 3:00-6:00 pm. You'll find details of this event in the enclosed calendar and on the L.A. County Botanic Garden Website.

A Retreat: On March 15th the Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation sponsored an all-day retreat which focused on, among other things, the mission and near-term goals of the L.A. County Botanic Garden. You'll hear more about this later.

We appreciate your continuing interest in the L.A. County Botanic Garden.
Thank you,

LOS ANGELES ARBORETUM FOUNDATION
BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2003

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The L.A. County Botanic Garden Newsletter is published by the Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation. L.A. County Botanic Garden is jointly operated by the Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation and the County of Los Angeles.

Get a new leaf on life!

at the 33rd Baldwin Bonanza Plant Sale May 2-3-4.

COME TO L.A.'S "FUNNEST" PLANT SALE...FEATURING...

...THOUSANDS OF UNIQUE AND POPULAR PLANTS FOR SALE: from rare exotics to familiar favorites, from the L..A. County Botanic Garden collections and participating nurseries...roses, orchids, cacti, flowering trees, ferns, perennials, herbs, and many more plants perfect for the Southern California climate.

...INFORMATIVE, INFORMAL "GARDEN CHATS": led by distinguished garden designers and nurserymen, discussing newly introduced plants, presenting how-to-demonstrations and revealing the latest of gardening trends, including organics and conservation issues.

...INSPIRING "GARDEN GALLERIES" DISPLAY GARDENS: created by many talented landscape contractors and garden designers in Southern California, blending traditional and innovative elements into their personal expression of the "Seeds of Inspiration" design theme. See the enclosed insert for a list of designers and their design theme.

...LIVELY ENTERTAINMENT: a diverse celebration of music and dance featuring the Choomsawe Korean Dance Group, Hsi Lai Temple Chinese Drum Team, Classical Guitarist Vangelis Varas, Opera Pasadena, String Theory Products and flamenco dancers Linda Castillo & Joel Gutierrez.

...CREATIVE KIDS' CRAFTS: "Seedlings" Kid's Corner activities include Plant-a-Pot, Natural Papermaking, Tissue Paper Flowers, and Garden Sidewalk Chalk Drawing fun.

...TANTALIZING TASTES: food from cultures around the world will be presented and served throughout the weekend.

...PRODUCT AND PLANT EXHIBITORS: including Desert to Jungle Nursery, El Nativo Growers, Greenlee Nurseries, Jungle Music Palms & Cycads, K.L. Shaw Kreations, Pacific Coast Topiary, Papaya Tree Nurseries, San Gabriel Nursery, Mountain States Wholesale Nursery, American Bamboo Society, Epiphyllum Society, L.A. Intl. Fern Society, San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Society, Welburn Gourd Farm, Power Plant, Whitney Farms, Ceres Environmental, Kellogg Garden Products, The Gardener's Companion, Organic Advantage, Theodore Payne Foundation, Santa Anita Bonsai, Dr. Earth, Westbridge Liquid Fertilizer, Worm Gold, Hi-Mark Begonias and Goto Nursery.

Preview Party & Plant Sale
Friday, May 2
4:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Members Only Plant Sale
Saturday, May 3
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Public Plant Sale
Saturday, May 3
9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Sunday, May 4
9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Saturday and Sunday Admission fees apply: $6 for adults, $4 for seniors and students, $1.50 for children 5-12.

Fun for Kids, Too!

On Sunday May 4, the entire family will find lots going on at the "Seedlings" Kid's Corner located in the Sunset Demonstration Garden. From 1:00-4:00 p.m. garden related activities, crafts and entertainment will take place. All activities are free with paid admission to the L.A. County Botanic Garden. Parental supervision is requested for all activities.

Plant-a-Pot

Ready, Set, Grow...create your very own container garden. Decorate a garden pot, fill it to the brim with flowers, take it home and enjoy your very own personal garden.

Natural Papermaking

Learn how to make paper. Mix paper scraps and water, making pulp for fun...press out all the water, you'll have pretty paper when you're done!

Tissue Paper Flowers

Blooming flowers forever! A quick, easy, fun craft for kids of all ages. Learn to make your very own flower from layers and layers of colorful tissue paper!

Garden Sidewalk Chalk Drawing

Calling all artists. Help decorate the entryway to the "Seedlings" Kid's Corner! Draw a picture on the sidewalk of your favorite flower or garden insect! Be sure to sign your masterpiece.

Garden Chats 2003: Ask the Experts!

Ongoing throughout the Baldwin Bonanza weekend, "Garden Chats" will inspire, educate and enliven. Learn the latest on organic and environmentally conscious gardening, best kept gardening secrets, garden retreats and much, much more. "Garden Chats" will take place under the pepper tree at the north end of the Water Conservation Garden, a natural shaded setting!

Gourd artisans from the California Gourd Society will conduct on-going demonstrations Saturday and Sunday in Ayres Hall from 10 am to 3 pm. Woodburning, sculpting with polymer clay, whimsical animals, basket weaving on gourds with garden materials, cutting and cleaning, enameling, dyeing, Huichol Indian beading, knotless netting and beaded netting, pine needle weaving, and much more will be covered! Artists conducting demonstrations include: Sally Rosenberg, Sherry Woods, Larry McClelland, Nanette Wenger, Dawn Schiller, Mary Jane Jones, Carolyn Potter, Leigh Adams, Judy Cunningham and Cookie Hanson.

Saturday, May 3

9:00 am **Desert Dessert Treats-Confections For A Thirsty State** George Hull of Mountain States Wholesale Nursery

10:00 am **Growing Perfect Tomatoes in Southern California** Steve Goto of Goto Nursery & Jonathan Matteson of Organic Advantage

10:00 am **Orchid Care*** - Tanya Finney

11:00 am **Succulent Wreath Making*** - Carolyn Egenes

11:00 am **Beautiful Begonias** Mark Bartholomew of Hi-Mark Begonias

11:30 am **Gardening 101** Scott Daigre & Catherine Downes

NOON **Getting Your Trees Off To A Great Start** Jerry Turney, Certified Arborist

12:30 **Amazing Seeds - The Miracles That Start Great Gardens** Lili Singer - Editor, The Gardener's Companion

1:00 pm **Eliminate Plant Diseases By Improving Your Soil** George Hahn of Worm Gold

1:30 pm **Why Organic Fertilization?** Giselle Schoniger of Kellogg Garden Products

2:00 pm **Why Organic Fertilization?** Milo Lou Shammas of Dr. Earth Company

3:00 pm **What's For Dinner? A Kitchen Garden Chat** Tony Kienitz, Garden Designer

Sunday, May 4

9:00 am **Plants That You Absolutely Don't Need But Have To Have!** David Reynolds - Monrovia Nursery

10:00 am **Tools For Your Garden** Bob Denman

10:00 am **Orchid Care*** - Tanya Finney

11:00 am **Succulent Wreath Making*** - Carolyn Egenes

11:00 am **Why Should You Use Liquid Fertilizers?** Larry Parker of Westbridge Liquid Fertilizers

11:30 am **The Scoop on Worm Poop: Worm Castings - The True Gardener's Best Kept Secret** Scott Williams of Ceres

NOON **Organic Fertilizers** Kim Fulk of Whitney Farms

12:30 **It's A Grassy World Out There: Ornamental Grasses for the Southern California Landscape** Dustin Gimble of John Greenlee Nursery

1:00 pm **Designing With Foliage** Mark Bartos of BEM Design Group

2:00 pm **Desert Dessert Treats-Confections For A Thirsty State** George Hull of Mountain States Wholesale Nursery

3:00 pm **Dry Gardening: Making Your Garden More Water-Wise** Scott Daigre & Richard Hayden

*will be held at the Education Greenhouse

The Queen Anne Cottage Annual Mother's Day Open House

Sunday, May 11, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Come inside to see the historic treasures and furnishings normally seen only through the windows of this charming Victorian-era cottage. Los Voluntarios docents will provide fascinating information about the history of the Queen Anne Cottage and its colorful owner, Elias Jackson (Lucky) Baldwin.

The Coach Barn and Santa Anita Depot will also be open. For additional information about the Queen Anne Cottage openings, please call (626) 821-4623. Regular L.A. County Botanic Garden admission applies.

"I often think how much fun it must have been to be a guest of Elias J. (Lucky) Baldwin — looking out the bedroom windows to the beautiful trees and grounds, playing croquet on the lawns, and enjoying music in the evenings."
Eileen Carnahan, Queen Anne Cottage volunteer since 1986

"I enjoy showing people the Music Room with its parlor organ, rosewood piano--Louis XV style, several melodeon, the Erard harp from France, and an interesting decorative music stand. There is a harp like ours in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London."
Jeannine Kiertzner, Queen Anne Cottage volunteer since 1993

"I reminisce when the Queen Anne Cottage once stood empty in the early 1940s, and was a secret spot to visit for local teenagers. I am so thankful that the gorgeous doors, mantles, and stained glass windows were put in storage during the interim years and returned during the cottage's renovation in the 1950s."
Eileen Hubbard, Queen Anne Cottage volunteer since 1985

THE GOOD LUCK PLANT

One of the most useful and beautiful plants of the Tropics...

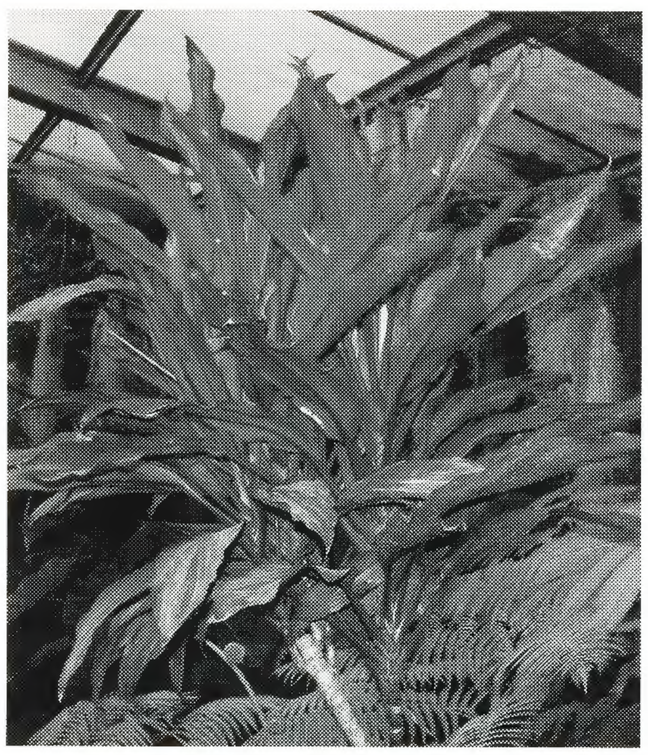
the Ti plant (pronounced like 'tea') known botanically as *Cordyline fruticosa* (formerly *C. terminalis*) in the Agave family.

Ti is an evergreen shrub that grows three to ten feet high. The leaves are in tight spirals at the tops of the branches, and the stems are bare below. Each leaf is 1-2 feet long and 2-5 inches wide with a long grooved leaf stalk. There are many color forms besides the basic green type. The elongated starchy root can weigh up to 300 pounds. The original home of the Ti is not certain since this important plant has been carried throughout the Pacific and Southeast Asia by people since ancient times, and it has now been spread to tropical zones around the world. It is easy to grow from a stem stuck in the ground.

The Ti plant is often associated with Hawaii where it is planted widely as an ornamental and where one can find packaged stems to carry home as souvenirs. There Ti has been used to weave sandals and rain capes, for thatching homes and temples, for plates and cups and for wrapping food to be baked in pit ovens or broiled over coals.

Common people planted Ti outside the home or wore Ti leaves to ward off evil spirits. Today the art of making Ti leaf leis and leaf rosettes is still taught. The strangest use was for shark fishing; it was used to wrap the bait made of liver and 'awa (kava root) which sated and stupefied the sharks that were lassoed and pulled to shallow water where they died.

Baked roots are said to have the flavor of molasses candy. This product has been used as a sweetener with other foods or mixed with water, fermented and distilled into an alcoholic drink. The young leaves have been cooked and eaten as a potherb.



Under the moniker "Good-luck plant" or "Lucky bamboo" the Ti plant has found its way into many modern American homes. The leafy green stems, often trained in a curious spiral form, miraculously survive for months or years in water.

At the L.A. County Botanic Garden, most of our Ti plants can be found in the Tropical Greenhouse. As you will see there, in contrast to the normal green leaf, horticultural selections demonstrate a remarkable variation in foliage. The leaves may be tinged or striped with red, purple, copper or hot pink. In Hawaii, an enormous collection of Ti plants can be found on the Hawaiian island of O'ahu at the Lyon Arboretum north of Honolulu in the misty Manoa Valley, just above Paradise Park. The curator, Ray Baker, shared two of his favorites with the author in 2001. 'Hauli Girl' and 'Kauai Beauty' are now established in the Tropical Bowl atop Tallac Knoll.

So, to get lucky, grow a specimen of the Ti plant, either inside in a bright window or in a protected spot outdoors where you need a dramatic splash of ethnobotanical color.

Contributed by Jim Bauml, Senior Biologist

REMINDER: NOT TO BE MISSED!

Christopher Lloyd and Fergus Garrett Lecture

Thursday, May 22, from 3:00-6:00 pm

Known for his amazing approach to garden design, color theory and the use of plants and architecture in the landscape, British gardening expert Christopher Lloyd has charmed horticultural fans around the globe with his books and appearances on BBC-Television. Joining Christopher Lloyd will be Fergus Garrett, head gardener at Great Dixter and a well-known lecturer and author.

Tickets are $25 for members and $35 for non-members, and can be purchased by calling 626-821-4624 or 821-4623. Seating is limited.

Mark Your Calendar

PLANTS

May 3 & 4:
Baldwin Bonanza Plant Sale
9:00 am - 4:30 pm

May 18:
45th Annual Epiphyllum Show & Sale
9 am to 4 pm

May 24 & 25:
Santa Anita Bonsai Show
9:30 am to 5 pm

June 7:
Daylily Show & Plant Sale
9 am to 4 pm

June 14 & 15:
Chong Hoa Bonsai & Rare Stones Show
10 am to 4 pm

PLACES

May 11:
The Queen Anne Cottage Open House
10 am -4 pm

July 27:
Checker Car Club Show
10 am to 3 pm

PEOPLE

May 22:
Christopher Lloyd Lecture
Author & Garden Designer
3 pm to 6 pm

June 16 - August 29:
Kid's Science Adventures Day Camp
8 am to 3 pm

FOOD

"FRESH - Celebrating the Table"!

May 15:
Summer Fruit Pastries with Joan Collins
3 pm to 5 pm

May 29:
A Spring Celebration with Jimmy Martinez
3 pm to 5 pm

June 26 and July 31:
Kids' Cooking Classes
3 pm to 5 pm

A Walk Down Memory Lane

By Fran Lombardo, Recent Visitor

I entered the Arcadia Arboretum and 60 years disappeared. Nothing looked changed. I continued to sites that had changed my life. As I walked, I came across an unfamiliar dirt road, and decided to explore. Suddenly, the little Santa Anita Depot stood before me, and I was a child again. After traveling four days from New York, Mother and I had disembarked at this station in the early 40's. Tired, and apprehensive, we waited for Dad. Mother quietly anxious, and I angry at sudden changes in my life.

It was not long, however, that my ten-year-old curiosity began its magic. It was a perfect opportunity to explore. I walked outside to the platform, running my fingers over the buildings red bricks, feeling the sun's warmth in them; so different from cold gray tenements I was used to. I fantasized romantic scenes as I gazed at the pretty balcony. As a city girl, open fields, and odd-looking trees, were a challenge. I had the urge to run free through the grass. Lack of traffic noise, and soft breezes began to sooth the strangeness of it all, and my anger was forgotten. Many years later, I realized the little train depot had been my first California friend.

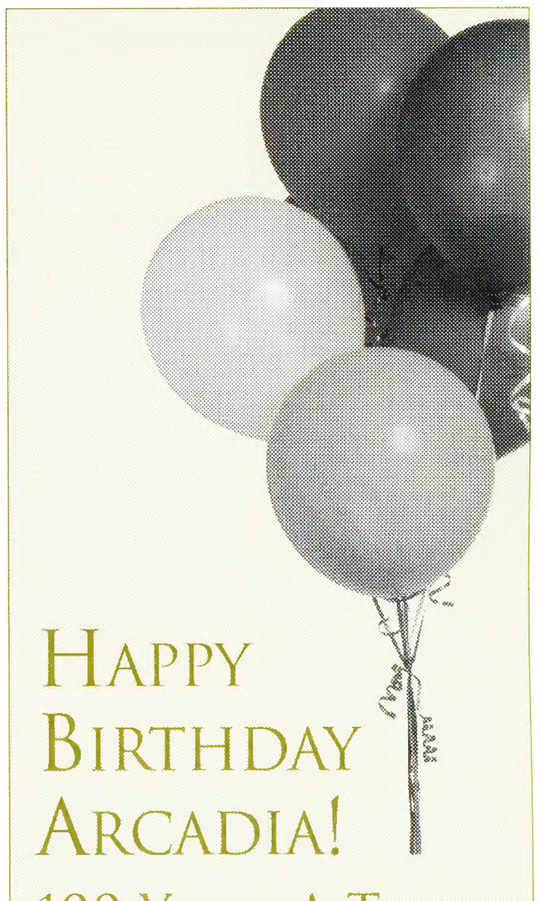
The joy of finding that memory, hurried me to my next destination. What would it conjure up? I entered the Rain Forest, and was a teen again, with the call of a young man in a lion cloth, swinging from tree to tree. Tarzan had been filmed here, and was my first love. His sense of loyalty, courage to be different, and love of freedom, was a young girls inspiration. Each time he firmly declared, 'me Tarzan', it helped to enforce in me a positive sense of self. Ray Bradbury, said about the author of 'Tarzan", "Edgar Rice Burroughs has probably changed more destinies than any other writer in American History." I had grown up as Tarzan had taught me, my self-esteem, firmly intact. As I left the jungle, I was sure I heard the plants around me rustle with approval.

Historical photo of the Santa Anita Depot.

The Queen Ann Cottage with its intricate architecture and gabled turret was my next destination. Fantasy Island known as the ultimate escapist show of the 70's was filmed here. From its turret, Tattoo, a diminutive man would point to the sky, and yell, 'De plane! De plane!' The show would begin, with plots that offered more than escape. At this period in my life I was a depressed empty nest mother with no idea of a future. The plots full of choices and possibilities expanded my awareness, enlarging my world. I learned how to look for deeper meanings behind actions. The program fostered in me, a need for a higher education, and I entered college. I went on to design, and facilitate personal awareness workshops for the next twenty-five years, called, (you guessed it) Possibilities.

As I walked to my car, I was grateful to be able to revisit memories that spanned a lifetime. The Arcadia Arboretum has been a faithful custodian. As a part of California history, open to all, you can visit my past. If you do, listen carefully. You might hear a train whistle, a rustle in the rain forest, or a small voice calling 'De plane! De plane!'

Note: Fran Lombardo is a published freelance writer, and former newspaper columnist.



Happy Birthday Arcadia!

100 Years: A Time for Pride, A Time for Celebration

Celebrating its 100th birthday in 2003, the city of Arcadia has planned a year-long celebration.

The L.A. County Botanic Garden will be the site for the Grand Ball on Saturday, September 13. Tickets are $85.00 per person. Most other birthday celebration events through the year are free. Arcadia memorabilia and collectibles are also available for purchase, many of which can be found in our Gift Shop.

Among the many community events planned during the year, be sure to mark your calendar for Sunday, November 2, and join the Lucky Baldwin Day Community Picnic festivities at the Arcadia County Park. There will be entertainment, games, refreshments, prizes and the final competition of the Mayor's Spelling Bee—fun for the entire family!

For more information on events that you, your family, your business or organization can support or participate in, write to Centennial Celebration at P.O. Box 60021, Arcadia, CA 91066 or call 626-574-5401.

Garden Conservancy's May 18 Open Day Program Benefits the L.A. County Botanic Garden

Eight private Pasadena gardens will open to the public on Sunday, May 18 from 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. as part of the Garden Conservancy's Open Days Program. Program proceeds will benefit the L.A. County Botanic Garden, the Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation and the Garden Conservancy. Sunset Magazine's Demonstration Garden at the L.A. Country Botanic Garden will serve as the lead garden for the tour. Cost is $5 per person per garden and children under 12 are admitted for free.

An exceptional private garden, at 808 South San Rafael Avenue in Pasadena, will highlight the tour. Sited on one and one-third acres, the Andalusian style house is one of five homes that Montecito architect George Washington Smith (an architect who all but defined the Spanish Colonial Revival of the early twentieth century) designed in the greater Los Angeles area. The present owners restored the garden, originally designed in 1927 by A.E. Hanson. It features a rose garden with more than 250 roses; a wisteria pergola; a cactus/aloe garden; a Mediterranean drought-tolerant garden; a hillside of shaped shrubs; a grass garden; and a tented pool pavilion with original tile benches. The garden has been photographed and featured in Los Angeles Times Magazine, House & Garden, Martha Stewart Living and Sunset.

Two additional Open Days are scheduled for Los Angeles this year on April 27th and May 10th.

The first regional edition of the Open Days Directory - the West Coast Edition - lists over 100 private gardens in California, Oregon and Washington. The cost is $5.00 (plus $1.50 for shipping) and comes with one free garden admission offer. West Coast gardens are also listed in the national edition, which costs $15.95 ($10.95) for Garden Conservancy members, plus $4.50 shipping. To order, call the Garden Conservancy toll free at 1-888-842-2442, or send a check or money order to The Garden Conservancy, PO Box 219, Cold Spring, NY 10516.

The Garden Conservancy is the only national not-for-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of gardens. Visit them at www.gardenconservancy.org.

1st Annual Korean Garden Festival

NEW DATE: Saturday, May 17
9:00 am—4: 30 pm

The First Annual Korean Garden Festival will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Korean immigration to the United States.

The Korean Village will feature a food court with traditional Korean foods, various forms of traditional Korean music and dance, Korean art exhibition, Tae Kwon Do demonstrations, and informal demonstrations and lectures on gardening.

Cal-Phil's Festival on the Green 2003 Season

Saturday's from 7:30 pm -10:00 pm

June 28: American Salute -The spirit of America - from classic to jazz!

July 12: French Connection - Rhapsody in Blue meets Bolero!

July 26: Hollywood Musicals - Cinema's greatest songs!

August 9: Musical Masterpieces - A trio of passionate masterworks!

August 23: Bravo Broadway - 99 years of Broadway come alive!

September 6: Affairs to Remember-Powerful, electrifying, & spectacular music!

For more information call 626.300.8200 or visit www.calphil.org. Reservations requested.

AT THE GIFT SHOP

This Spring Find the Perfect Gift at the Gift Shop!

New for Kids: The ever popular pop-out book series and "Fuzzy Town" wildlife plush toys

For Garden Lovers: Just in...the new Open Days Directory for gardens north to Washington

For Readers: A collection of books by renowned British author and garden expert Christopher Lloyd. Reserve your copy now for his lecture and book signing on May 22.

For Your Table: Grow delicious veggies from Renee's Garden Seeds and decorate your table with her burgundy tone sunflowers!

For Pleasure: Stock up on Crabtree's newest 'Wisteria" scented body soak and Lavender or Green Tea hand creams

The L.A. County Botanic Garden Gift Shop is open daily from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm. Call 626-447-8751 for special orders or inquiries!

Happy Spring Holidays from the Staff & Volunteers.

The Story Behind Our Japanese Iris

Soon to be at their height of color in May and June!

A horticultural gamble has paid off at the west side of the L.A. County Botanic Garden's large central lawn area. The bet: that Japanese irises could thrive in half-day plus sun in the middle of Southern California's fairly dry San Gabriel valley. The hoped for outcome: tens of thousands of spectacularly colored Japanese irises blooming throughout a two-month period beginning in May.

In 2000, CEO of the L.A. County Botanic Garden, Peter C. Atkins, purchased over 5000 rhizomes from his former employer, PepsiCo, where he had been the Botanical Curator of the Donald M. Kendall Sculpture Garden. At that time the Kendall staff was dividing over 225,00 Japanese iris rhizomes, the results of six years growth from 31,000 rhizomes imported directly from Japan.

Japanese irises are descendants of the Manchurian iris (*Iris kaempferi*) and the native Japanese iris (*Iris laevigata*). Their petals are larger and more spectacularly colored than the bulbous Dutch irises (*Iris X xiphium*), yet more relaxed and lacking the beard of bearded irises (*Iris subgenus Iris*). The Japanese horticulturists' efforts over hundreds of years show up in the large size of the blooms, the beautiful colors, and the delicate markings that many of the irises display. (The cultivars included in our display all originated at the Kamo Nursery, Shizuoka, Japan).

These irises are water loving plants; they prefer a constantly moist, acid soil. To accommodate this it was decided that they would be grown in an irrigated, well-drained bed that would be prepared with special soil amendments to help keep the natural high 8.0 pH of our soils down to 6.5-7.0.

The first year's growth proved to be a disastrous disappointment. None of the iris bloomed in time for the Iris Festival that was planned for their welcome. And, the plants didn't seem to be establishing, despite the elaborate soil preparation. Finally, adding insult to injury, only ONE flower emerged that year!

But the well thought out horticultural gamble did pay off the next year. Most of the plants survived the first summer, and in spring 2002 their blooms were spectacular.

Today, the Japanese iris garden is a must-see for members and visitors. And, not since the days of Lucky Baldwin, has a smart gamble paid off so handsomely.

LA County Botanic Garden
LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM & BOTANIC GARDEN
It will grow on you!

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ADMISSION
$6 Adults, $4 Students and Seniors,
$1.50 Children 5-12, Free for children
under 5 and LACBG members

SUMMER HOURS: June 2 - August 29, 2003

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY:
9 am-7 pm; Admission closes at 6:30 pm.
Members may enter at 8 am

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY:
9 am-5 pm; Admission closes at 4:30 pm.
Members may enter at 8 am

FESTIVAL ON THE GREEN SATURDAYS:
June 28, July 12 & 26, August 9 & 23,
September 6: Rotunda closes at 2:30 pm;
visitors must exit grounds by 3 pm.
Fridays (before concerts) visitors may
stay for rehearsal performances.